

DECLASSIFIED

Cuban Chronology

AF Communications Service Submission

97

CLASSIFIED BY

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR  
INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER  
31, 1972

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 6 year  
interval

SP-AIR-33 LC

DECLASSIFIED

ATCH 5

7-1993



DECLASSIFIED

Chronology

AFCS SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN CRISIS

For the Period

14 October - 21 November 1962

14-17 October -- Negative

18 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL

(UNCLASSIFIED) TAC requested AFCS to provide on-base extensions of weather circuits to the ADVON CP at Homestead AFB, Florida. This requirement was met by commercial circuit extensions and deployment of one weather facsimile and two weather teletype machines with maintenance personnel from the 3d Mobile Comm Squadron, Tinker AFB.

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

COMBAT FORCES -- Negative

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR  
INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER  
31, 1970

DECLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

DI-62-0018

CC-SH-5-62/61



[REDACTED]

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

19-21 October -- Negative

22 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL

(S) JCS advised AFCS at 22/2300Z of DEFCON 3 status for U.S. armed forces world-wide. Hq AFCS Command Post passed this information to all subordinate AFCS units immediately. Command Post was activated and key Hq AFCS staff assembled and briefed.

(S) 2100L. MATS CP advised AFCS that activation of MATS Alternate CP was desired. AFCS was tasked for teletype operator manning and provision of crypto tapes. This requirement was relayed to 1918 Comm Squadron, Scott AFB (action) and Hq Midwest Comm Region (information). (Ref. Msg. AFCS CP 222359L)

OPERATIONAL PLANNING

(S) Alerted mobile EMS SSB Radio team deployed in support of Exer Shore Line of possible redeployment to meet higher priority requirement.

(S) Coordinated with TAC to insure distribution of AFSTRIKE Oplan 316 to this headquarters, SE Comm Rgn, and 3 Mobile Comm Sq.

COMBAT FORCES -- Negative

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative



[REDACTED]

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

23 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL

([REDACTED]) 0110L. AFCS notified USAF CP that AFCS units command-wide had attained DEFCON 3 status.

([REDACTED]) Southeast Comm Region reported to Hq AFCS that a MARS net had been established to operate night time and week-ends. (Ref. Msg. CP-23-K01).

OPERATIONAL PLANNING

([REDACTED]) Alerted 3 Mobile Comm Sq to prepare for deployment of mobile GCA and control tower to Opa Locka, Florida.

([REDACTED]) Received requirement from TAC for additional TACAN not previously tasked.

COMBAT FORCES

([REDACTED]) Ref TAC Msg. DOC-P2 11977. CINCAFLANT OPLAN 316D tasked AFCS with provision of the following services and facilities:

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

1. Normal NAVAIDS, communications and weather communications support for enroute and deployment base operations.

2. Necessary equipment and personnel to establish and operate the following NAVAIDS: at Opa Locka, Florida: one each GCA and mobile control tower; at Dry Tortugas, one TACAN.

3. Deploy one weather intercept facility, AN/MSQ-10, to Opa Locka for movement into objective area.

4. Personnel and equipment to establish and operate an ATC facility at CRC/ATC, Key West NAS, Florida.

5. Weather circuits and terminal equipment at Opa Locka.

6. One single sideband HF voice circuit from Key West to RAPCON, Objective Area Charlie.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

#### AIRLIFT

[REDACTED] Arranged TAC return by airlift, EMS project from Exercise Shore Line so this equipment and the personnel would be available for OPlan 312 and support.

[REDACTED] Coordinated airlift requirements with AFOOP, AFSTP-RA, and MATL for the airlift of GCA to Opa Locka.

[REDACTED] Reaffirmed total EMS airlift requirements for support of 312/310 plans with TAC.

PERSONNEL -- Negative



LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

24 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~ The MacDill MARS station was transferred to operational control of TAC. (Ref. Msg. CP 2 4-K-0205-Hot News)

(UNCLASSIFIED) 1045L. AFCS CP advised all subordinate AFCS units that, reference AFCSM 28-1, units would normally conform to DEFCON status of host base or command served.

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

COMBAT FORCES

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~ AFCS requested to provide one voice and one teletype circuit from Cross City, Florida, to MacDill AFB. (Ref. TWX-STR 36-OD 4954) Action was taken by 1928 Comm Squadron, MacDill.

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~ Hq USAF directed retermination of AIRCOMNET circuits at Tyndall, Eglin, Patrick, and Opa Locka, from Robins to Andrews AFB, all to be equipped with crypto (KW-26). (Ref. TWX-AFOAC-SO/3 93029) Implementing instructions were issued by Hq AFCS.



[REDACTED] Southeast Comm Region advised Hq AFCS that 14 EMC teletype and 19 telephone circuits were activated in support of Hq USAF Rear (Andrews-Maxwell). (Ref. Msg. CP-0200-K).

[REDACTED] Hq USAF CP advised Hq AFCS that local AFCS unit (2045 Comm Group) had been requested to provide three teletype operators and one KY-26 maintenance technician for equipment installed by DCA in State and Treasury Departments.

(S) AFCS EMS Actions. Requirements contained in TAC Msg. DOC-P2 19977 for NAVAIDS and weather circuits plus HF SSB from Key West to Area Charlie were regarded as requirement only. With exception of GCA to Opa Locka, equipment would not be moved until OPlan 316 was implemented. TAC originally asked for GCA control tower, TVOR, and TACAN at Opa Locka, but later withdrew requirements for all except GCA. FAA was providing the other NAVAID support.

#### RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE

[REDACTED] Dispatched AFCS EMS team to site survey (New) TACAN location and to determine availability of support and problems to be overcome.

#### AIRLIFT

(UNCLASSIFIED) Two aircraft (C-133, C-118) picked up at Tinker AFB one GCA unit, five control tower operators, and 19 GCA personnel for arrival at Opa Locka at 2030Z, 25 October. TAC advised by AFCS Msg. CP-24-K-01.



[REDACTED]

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS

(UNCLASSIFIED) Hq AFCS compiled (via Telephone) lists of equipment available at MARS stations at 33 SAC dispersal bases.

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

25 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL

[REDACTED] Received EMS requirements from ADC that were required to support ADC Plan 20-62. ADC assigned priority for this support as follows:

1. Mobile control tower at Grand Island, Nebraska.
2. Personnel to operate and maintain towers at:
  - a. Grand Island, Nebraska
  - b. Volk Field, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin
  - c. Phelps-Collins, Alpena, Michigan
3. TACAN and TACAN maintenance personnel at Grand Island.
4. Mobile GCA with personnel to operate and maintain the GCA's at:
  - a. Grand Island
  - b. Phelps-Collins
  - c. Volk Field

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

COMBAT FORCES

(UNCLASSIFIED) 2030L. CINCSTRIKE requested one duplex teletype circuit from Cross City, Florida, AFS to AJCC at Ft. Ritchie, Md. Requirement met. ✓

[REDACTED] AFCS EMS mobile GCA installed at Opa Locka, Florida. ✓

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT

[REDACTED] Sent message to CSAF outlining EMS airlift problems encountered.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Requested airlift for mobile tower from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, to Grand Island, Nebraska. (63)

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

26 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

[REDACTED]



COMBAT FORCES

( ) 2d Weather Group, Langley AFB, requested installation of COMET circuits 1 and 2 in the intelligence section of Hangar #2, Key West NAS by 27 October. (Ref. Msg., 2 WX Gp., OP-073-K) Requested circuits were provided by the Office of Commercial Communications Management (OCCM).

( ) Reviewed all contingency requirements with AFOOP and discussed the requirement levied by ADC for three GCA facilities. This discussion held on KY-9 telephone.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT

( ) Received call from USAF concerning non-availability of airlift for Grand Island mobile tower. Made decision to deploy from Tinker AFB to Grand Island by road.

PERSONNEL

(UNCLASSIFIED) Telephone call from AFPMP-2 tasked AFCS with providing six AFSC 29170 and 15 each 29150 personnel to be on 10-hour alert for an unknown location. Levy was placed on Midwest Comm Region.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Received levy from AFPMP-2D for five AFSC 19350/70 radio operators for 179 days TDY to Special Support Group, Washington, D.C., reporting by 30 October. Spanish speakers desired.



LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

27 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING

( [REDACTED] ) EMS GCA at Opa Locka officially flight checked, fully operational. ✓

( [REDACTED] ) Report received from EMS TACAN survey team. Team chief had coordinated all support with the Commander, NAS. TAC/CP advised that AFCS would take action in accordance with page F-39 of OPlan 316D and requested that TAC take action IAW F-7.

( [REDACTED] ) Sent message to TAC outlining actions taken and to be taken on TACAN deployment. Requested that all cognizant agencies take action ASAP.

( [REDACTED] ) Sent message to ADC outlining summary of actions taken with respect to ADC OPlan 20-62, and the actions to be taken to complete tasks.



## COMBAT FORCES

(UNCLASSIFIED) 0300L. AFCS status report on securing Patrick, Eglin, Tyndall, and Opa Locka AF bases with KW-26 crypto equipment showed Patrick, Tyndall, and Eglin secured by end of radio day, 27 October; Opa Locka, by 2000Z, 28 October.

(UNCLASSIFIED) OCCM reported 39 circuits called up 26-27 October, including 30 voice, eight teletype, and one intercom. MATS, with 17, and ADC, with 15, were the major customers.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Frequencies for Opa Locka tower and GCA assigned by TAC were confirmed by AFCS.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Circuits at Tyndall, Eglin, Patrick, and Opa Locka were reterminated from Robins to Andrews and encrypted with KW-26 equipment.

(UNCLASSIFIED) GCA at Opa Locka operational; flight checked satisfactorily by C-140 JetStar aircraft. (Ref. Msg. HTA-COMM 10-160)

(UNCLASSIFIED) OCCM gave AT&T an order to provide two weather circuits to Sewart AFB, Tennessee.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative



[REDACTED]

PERSONNEL

(UNCLASSIFIED) Hq AFCS requested North Atlantic Comm Region to place 15 airmen, AFSC 29150, on 90-day TDY to Hq TAC, Langley AFB, reporting 29 October.

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

28 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING

([REDACTED]) AFCS Oplan 29 written in support of AFSTRIKE Oplan 316. /

COMBAT FORCES

([REDACTED]) AFCS posture showed four bare strip NAVAID complexes, with attendant ATC and weather communications, on four-hour alert at 3d Mobile Comm Squadron, Tinker AFB, prepared for objective area deployment; one GCA operational at Opa Locka; ATC/CRC, Key West air/ground equipment in-place ready for operation; one mobile TACAN in-place at Key West prepared for further deployment as required; one Talking Bird aircraft at Homestead in support of the ADVON CP and a second one on four-hour alert, prepared for deployment into the objective area.

[REDACTED]



~~(SECRET)~~ Some 450 long haul commercial communications circuits were activated to handle voice and teletype requirements. This action by OCCM met all commands' requests with minimum confusion.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

#### AIRLIFT

~~(SECRET)~~ CSAF directed MATS to on-load one each AN/TRN-6 TACAN, two each MB-2 power units, two each PE-75 power units, and three each KWM-2SSB at Tinker for delivery to Key West NAS on 29 October. (Ref. SARD 1658)

~~(SECRET)~~ Requested airlift for mobile TACAN from Tinker to Key West for further possible deployment in support of OPlan 316.

#### PERSONNEL

(UNCLASSIFIED) AFCS Msg. 28-K-06 to CONUS units requested: (1) effect of traffic and additional workload on station handling capabilities; (2) extent demands for personnel could be supported; (3) capability to support these requirements if present crisis should continue for 30 or 90 days, or unknown duration. Southeast Comm Region replied that it could hold for 30-45 days. Western Region, having reached capacity, could sustain for an indefinite period. Midwest Region could furnish 14 skilled and 32 unskilled teletype operators for 90 days. North Atlantic Region: AFSC 291X0/1 support



[REDACTED]

limited to current TDY of 22 airmen, alert of five others to Det 1, 1917 Comm Squadron, and TDY of two 291X1. Southwest Region: November, none; December, three 29151, one 29131, and one 29130; January, two 29151, one 29150; February, nine 29151, six 29131, five 29130. Assistance would be required for 24-hour operation of MARS stations on AFSC and ATC bases.

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

29 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL

(UNCLASSIFIED) Coordination with AFOOP-FD-AC revealed that the requirement for three GCA's to be provided in support of ADC was expected to be cancelled.

OPERATIONAL PLANNING

(UNCLASSIFIED) CINCLANT OPLAN 316E arrived in AFCS. / ✓

COMBAT FORCES

[REDACTED] Mobile TACAN deployed by road from Tinker to Grand Island in support of ADC. Meanwhile, ADC advised that another tower and two more TACAN's may be required from AFCS.

[REDACTED]



RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

30 October

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

COMBAT FORCES

(UNCLASSIFIED) Hq MATS reported MATS ADVON at AFLANT deactivated  
at 30/2300Z. ✓

~~(SECRET)~~ Mobile TACAN deployed from Tinker to Key West via C-133 air-  
lift. Facility to be further deployed as required.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative



PERSONNEL --- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

31 October-1 November -- Negative

2 November

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

#### COMBAT FORCES

(████████) USAF Msg. AFOAC-OP 94159 requested AFCS to assign project officers, office symbols, and telephone extensions to "Project Red Slip", which covered all communications projects in CONUS directly resulting from the Cuban situation.

(████████) Talking Bird #1 deployed from Sewart AFB, Tennessee to Homestead AFB, Florida in support of OPLAN 316. 12

(████████) AFCS teletype and facsimile installed at Homestead on an interim basis.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative





[REDACTED]

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

3 November -- Negative

4 November

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

#### COMBAT FORCES

(UNCLASSIFIED) Five AN/MRC-94 units were deployed, one to Key West, and two each to McCoy and MacDill, for use as runway supervisory units. Transportation and operating personnel were provided by TAC, with TAC and local AFCS units providing maintenance. UHF frequencies were the same as those used by base control towers. AFCS also provided one instructor at each deployment base. (Ref. TAC Msg. DOC-E 11 5049 to AFCS)

[REDACTED] Equipment capabilities between Talking Bird aircraft and Andrews AFB. Andrews made available to work Talking Bird equipment from the eight-channel Andrews-Harmon system which was not yet operational.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

5 November

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

#### COMBAT FORCES

(S) A test of communications capability between the Talking Bird aircraft at Homestead AFB and Andrews AFB was conducted from 05185Z to 052155Z. Reception at Andrews was "five by five" while that at the Talking Bird was only "three by three" due to interference. AFLANT ADVON advised AFCS that TAC had requested more frequencies. (Ref. Msg. AFLANT ADVON HAADOC-11-164 RED SLIP and 2045 Comm Gp TC 303L)

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] Hq TAC advised AFCS by Msg. DOC-P 2 12186 that Annex Q. OPlan 316 E/D had been re-drafted. The revision to AFCS tasks were as follows: (Note: Except for pre-positioning of gear in Par. 5 below, actions had already been taken.)

1. Delete the mobile control tower at Opa Locka, Florida.
2. TACAN for Dry Tortugas was pre-positioned at Key West.
3. Weather circuits and terminals at Opa Locka were augmented by GT 8029 and WFX-2.
4. Continue to provide the five runway supervisory units (OPlan 312).
5. Pre-position four mobile control towers, two GCS's, three TACAN's, three LF beacons, one TVOR, and one AN/MSQ-10 (mobile radio teletype weather/facsimile intercept set) at Opa Locka for airlift to objective area (now on alert at Tinker AFB).
6. Terminate a full-duplex teletype at Andrews AFB from Opa Locka (new requirement already in operation).



7. Place an AN/MSQ-10 on ready status for deployment to Homestead AFB on or about D plus 3 for movement to the objective area.

( ) All MARS stations supporting AFCS were notified to revert to normal duty hour operation as of 052200Z. (Ref. AFCS Msg. CP 63-224).

( ) TAC Msg. DOC-C 2-12132 alerted AFCS regarding possible requirements in connection with order to active duty of the troop carrier units. This might entail circuit installations, teletype operators, TWX installations, and possible positioning of crypto material for issue to troop carrier units.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET --- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative



[REDACTED]

6 November

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

COMBAT FORCES

~~REDACTED~~ 3d Mobile Comm Squadron Msg. CR-1-6-K-4 reported Talking  
Bird #2 fully operational and on alert status as of 062300Z. ✓

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

7-11 November -- Negative

12 November

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

COMBAT FORCES

[REDACTED] Talking Bird status: #1 deployed at Homestead AFB fully operational; #2, at Sewart AFB, Tennessee, fully operational in alert status. ✓

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

13 November -- Negative

14 November

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

- OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

COMBAT FORCES

[REDACTED] AFCS received notification from Hq USAF that by direction of the sub-committee for Communications, National Security Council;

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

USAF must install, operate, and maintain ground/air communications at Quito, Ecuador; La Paz, Bolivia; Guatemala City, Guatemala; and Tegaucigalpo, Honduras, for flight following and control of aircraft in the Caribbean Command area. AFCS was tasked with operation and maintenance of the in-place facilities; one warrant officer and five airmen at each location to be provided from current manpower authorizations. This phase was the initial step and must be completed within 90 days. Phase II (three to eight months) involved the replacement of mobile units with fixed plant gear in a program to be conducted jointly with the Army. Phase III (eight to 18 months) would involve adding more stations on a fixed basis. (Ref. AFCS Command Post Summary for Commander, 14 Nov 62, in Hq AFCS files).

[REDACTED] AFCS learned informally (from Hq MATS via telephone) that Exercise Sun Shade would begin 19 Nov 62. This would be a series of exercises of Cuban contingency forces on OPlan 316-D and first three days of 316-E. Exercises to run in five-day increments and continue for approximately five weeks. AFCS to provide AN/MSQ-10 at Fort Bragg, N.C. to arrive not later than 18 November. AFCS airmen required: five each at Pope AFB and Ft. Campbell.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative

PERSONNEL -- Negative

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

15-19 November -- Negative

20 November

COMMAND AND CONTROL -- Negative

OPERATIONAL PLANNING -- Negative

#### COMBAT FORCES

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~ 3d Mobile Comm Squadron, Tinker AFB, reported via telephone that Talking Bird #2 was deployed to Pope AFB, N.C., at 1620 CST in support of Operation Sun Shade, arriving at 1755 CST. Voice contact was established by #2 with Talking Bird #1 at Homestead AFB at 2215 CST. Frequencies assigned for this operation were reported unsatisfactory due to excessive CW and noise interference. JAC was asked for additional frequencies,

(UNCLASSIFIED) Talking Bird #2 deployed from Sewart AFB, Tennessee to Pope AFB, North Carolina in support of Exercise SUN SHADE.

RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE -- Negative

AIRLIFT -- Negative



PERSONNEL -- Negative

LOGISTICS -- Negative

BUDGET -- Negative

MISCELLANEOUS -- Negative

21 November -- Negative

This document classified [REDACTED] to uphold this Command's actions in the recent Cuban Crisis.